COVERUPS!

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BARGER DOUBTS BARBER/RAMSEY THEORY

by Gary Mack

By letter to G. Robert Blakey dated February 18, 1983, acoustic scientist James Barger has completed the first of a two-part assault to determine the validity of the Dallas Police tapes and his work for the HSCA.

The six page letter consists of five sections: the first restates the Barber theory and Ramsey Panel confirmation, followed by four specific recommendations for further study. Since the contents are fairly technical, here are summaries with added explanations:

Barber/Ramsey theory and conclusions: Barger notes that the Ramsey Panel Report is in two parts: the Barber theory and the Panel's opinions about the BBN Report to the HSCA; he adds "Only within the former part do we find important and original information."

Barger then restated the Barber theory, that because of the timing of a phrase heard on both channels simultaneously, the "shot" sounds occurred about one minute after the assassination actually took place. Barger agrees that the phrase, spoken by Sheriff Bill Decker, is identical on both recordings. However, he doubts that the theory is proven because of "some enigmatic features" of the Channel 2 recording which could *not* have been simultaneously recorded on Channel 1.

Noting that the Panel "did not examine the several items of evidence that corroborated our original findings," he stands by his original work and suggests further analysis to prove or disprove the Barber theory. If it cannot be proven, more studies can increase the confidence in his original work.

Originality and integrity of the DPD recordings: As I've written before, Dr. Barger doubts the recordings located by the HSCA are the originals. Here he lists four studies which can easily answer that question. While not mentioned in the letter, Barger has done some, and perhaps all, of them; naturally, he would not be recommending specific studies if he didn't already know what the answers would be.

All four studies involve the 60 cycle power hum, which is present, to some extent, in every audio recording. There is evidence of at least two different hum tones, which proves the recordings are copies. Curiously, the Ramsey Panel could have done these studies, but chose not to, even though Barger informed the members of the apparent discrepancies.

Specifically, the shape and direction of the power hum can be examined by phase demodulation and a search for discontinuities (breaks) in both recordings. One of them occurs at the very start of Chief Curry's first post assassination command to "Go to the hospital." The beginning seems to be cut off, either by a splice (which can only be done on tape, not a disc or belt recording), or an overdub (which, again, can only be produced on professional equipment like that in a recording studio).

If these four studies show the DPD recordings to be originals, writes Barger, then the Barber theory is true and further study need not be done. If not true, then the next three groups of studies should strengthen the work of BBN for the HSCA.

Enhanced echo pattern matching: "Owing to time and funding limitations, our original study devoted only about three days to the process of matching the [test shot] echo patterns with the sound patterns...on the DPD recording." The matching procedure, called a crosscorrelation, is laborious, time-consuming work. BBN was able to get 2592 matches (8HSCA94), but a computer can ultimately generate a far more massive amount of data. In this section, Dr. Barger recommends computer assisted matching which would yield 3,000,000 crosscorrelations and significantly increase the confidence level of his earlier work.

The Weiss and Aschkenasy analysis: Again "owing to time and funding limitations," a significant study was not attempted for the HSCA—the advanced procedure developed by Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy. Their analysis pinpointed the source of the third shot, but not the other three. Their methodology, urges Barger, should be applied to those shots too.

Since "there is little doubt about the origin" of the other shots (an upper floor of the TSBD), the W&A approach would also reveal any inconsistencies. For example, if any of the shots were found to come from an illogical location, either the tape or the BBN Report could be seriously doubted. Since the motorcycle locations are also found by the echo matches, they, too, should be in a logical position in Dealey Plaza as already determined by Barger's earlier work. In other words, the W&A analysis is a check on the work of BBN.

Compatibility with non-acoustic evidence: Here Dr. Barger lists four additional areas for further study. The first is a new comparison of the shot timing with the Zapruder film. Although three of these "jiggle analyses" were performed for the HSCA, they were made independent of the acoustics evidence and before the timing was known. Barger suggests either the muzzle blast or shock wave could have jiggled the camera, rather than Zapruder's "startle reflex" causing a blur. It's an interesting theory which could make sense out of the film's many blurs.

The second study in this section concerns the motorcycle speed. While unable to measure its speed for the HSCA by the sound of the engine, Barger believes it can be done. This would show whether the speed is consistent with being in Dealey Plaza and slowing down for the two turns. Barger also correctly notes that the obvious motorcycle slowdown about 3 seconds before the first shot is completely inconsistent with the Barber/Ramsey scenario, which requires it to be speeding up Stemmons at that precise moment.

The third suggested study is of the siren sounds about two minutes after the BBN shots. As I detailed in Coverups 5, a second microphone near the Trade Mart probably picked up those sirens. Barger noted a change in pitch as the sirens passed—the familiar Doppler effect on sound coming from a moving source. The amount of pitch change over a period of time can be measured, and that data can determine the speeds and distances "of the motorcycle and the siren vehicle." This information will be very helpful in understanding the many relevant sounds on the DPD recordings.

Finally, Barger's fourth recommendation is a study of the photographic evidence showing McLain in Dealey Plaza. So far, the best evidence is the Zapruder film as detailed in Coverups 6, which Barger received just days after writing his letter.

In conclusion, Barger estimates the cost of these studies at $300,000. He adds that the Ramsey Report lists 13 studies which could be pursued, and he has incorporated all but three in his letter to Blakey (the three would not yield any new or different information not already addressed by either Barger or Ramsey).

It's important to emphasize that Barger does not wish to do this work himself, but will discuss his ideas with whatever scientists are selected. He believes the analyses are fairly simple and the results will be more acceptable if presented by an independent group.

This all leaves me puzzled and more than a little suspicious why the Ramsey Panel didn't follow Barger's suggestions and didn't do any of their own recommended studies. Why the hell did the Panel waste nearly two years and $25,000 to release a Report on an incomplete study?

DMN 3-17-83

First witnesses describe attack on James Earl Ray

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — James Earl Ray shouted and struggled while one prisoner held him and a second stabbed him repeatedly during an attack in a prison law library, a witness testified Wednesday.

Three black inmates are accused of the June 4, 1981, stabbing at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary, where Ray was serving a 99-year sentence for the 1968 assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray was hospitalized 13 days after being stabbed 22 times with a crudely fashioned knife that prisoners call a shank.

On the first day of testimony in the trial, Ricky Artiburn, one of two Brushy Mountain prisoners who watched but were not implicated in the attack, told the court that he was getting a book when other inmates appeared in the room and began stabbing Ray.

"One of them was trying to hold his hands, the other was sticking him," said Artiburn, who was serving time on a burglary charge.

"He just sort of hollered, 'Oh!' " Artiburn said. "He was trying to fight back, just by squirreling and twisting his arms."

Artiburn testified that the attack, which lasted about 45 seconds, was made by two black inmates while a third inmate stood watch.

FWST 3-8-83

New spying policy for FBI is under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress say they will challenge the Reagan administration's decision to expand FBI infiltration and monitoring of U.S. groups that allegedly advocate violent social and political change.

Attorney General William French Smith broadened the FBI's authority for domestic spying Monday when he issued new guidelines for FBI domestic security and domestic terrorist investigations.

Smith's new rules, which take effect March 21, replace guidelines issued by Attorney General Edward Levi in 1976 to halt abuses turned up by congressional committees. Levi's rules have come under attack by conservative groups.

The congressional panels found that during the 1960s and early 1970s the FBI infiltrated anti-Vietnam war groups, civil rights organizations and the women's liberation movement, and attempted to disrupt their activities and discredit their leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Although the new rules do not need congressional approval, several efforts were immediately announced in Congress to alter them or at least clarify Smith's intentions.

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights, said the new FBI powers could chill the exercise of free speech. He called on Justice officials to explain them at hearings in the next two weeks.

Sens. Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., and Walter Huddleston, D-Ky., chairman and vice chairman of the special committee that investigated the FBI's Abscam investigation, said through spokesmen that they and other senators will introduce legislation to restrict the use of FBI informants and infiltrators even more sharply than Levi had.

Smith said the new guidelines already had been altered this past week in response to some private criticisms from Congress. He said the new rules "clarify the standards governing these investigations and reaffirm the importance of gathering criminal intelligence about violence-prone groups, while retaining adequate protections for lawful and peaceful political dissent."

Critics specifically objected to new provisions which will:

- Authorize the FBI to infiltrate or put informants into groups during preliminary inquiries, where "there is not yet a reasonable indication of criminal activities" warranting a full investigation. Levi had restricted these techniques to full investigations.
- Authorize for the first time full investigations into public advocacy of crimes or violence where there is apparent intent to carry out such threats. One Senate aide said this could allow investigations of people who advocate not registering for the standby military draft as a protest.
- Permit the FBI to continue low-level monitoring by informants of groups which have become dormant and pose no "immediate threat of harm." The FBI had been closing investigations when a group had gone more than a year without resorting to violence.

FWST 3-19-83

3 convicted of stabbing King's slayer

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — An all-white jury on Friday convicted three black convicts of trying to kill James Earl Ray in a stabbing attack at a prison library nearly two years ago.

JAMES EARL RAY

Ray, the assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was stabbed 22 times on June 4, 1981, at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary. After spending 13 days in a hospital, Ray was moved to the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville.

Convicts Dock Walker, John W. Partee and Jerome Ransom were found guilty of assault with intent to commit first-degree murder. Walker and Partee were sentenced to 60 years in prison and Ransom received a 20-year term. The sentences were added to the men's other terms.

"The court simply cannot pat these gentlemen on the back," Judge John Duncan Jr. said. "To do so would encourage this kind of criminal behavior behind prison walls."

The jury returned the verdict at 3:55 p.m. EST after deliberating two hours Thursday night and 6½ hours Friday.

Defense lawyers, who complained that prosecutors excluded blacks from the jury, said they would appeal.

"I don't want the people to think we are down on white juries," said defense lawyer Isaiah Gant, who is black. "What we objected to is the procedure used."

Partee, 32, of Nashville, is serving a 99-year sentence on a 1971 murder conviction; Ransom, 20, of Chattanooga, is serving 15 years on 1979 convictions of second-degree murder and larceny of an automobile; and Walker, 36, of Memphis, was sentenced to 100 years on a 1970 conviction of robbery with a deadly weapon.

A half-dozen plainclothes policemen whisked Ray into the sealed courtroom Thursday to testify as the state's final witness.

"I'm not even interested in who assaulted me," Ray, 55, told the jury. "I don't know any of the defendants."

Ray blamed the attack on former Warden Herman Davis, saying Davis knew it was planned and ordered the guards removed from the library before it started. Ray claims the stabbing was part of a government plot to kill him.

FWST 3-13-83

Special prosecutor is denied

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department says there is no reason to appoint a special prosecutor in the 1979 shooting deaths of five anti-Ku Klux Klan demonstrators in Greensboro, N.C.

Department attorneys, in a four-page brief filed Thursday in federal court, argued that survivors of the shooting have failed to justify such an appointment.

Five Communist Workers Party members died in the shootout, which occurred during a CWP "Death to the Klan" rally Nov. 3, 1979. Six Klansmen and Nazis were found innocent of state murder charges about a year later.

Survivors contend that high-ranking Justice Department officials were involved in the shootings and therefore have a conflict of interest in the current federal investigation.

Among officials accused of such wrongdoing by Nov. 3 survivors are Attorney General William French Smith and FBI Director William Webster.

Gesell last month denied the government's motion to dismiss the lawsuit seeking the special prosecutor and ordered the Justice Department to respond to the special prosecutor request. The judge still must decide the case.

WHO WAS REALLY IN OSWALD'S GRAVE? *Part 2*

by Gary Mack

Part 1 ended with the events of November 19, 1982, when the observations of Paul Groody and Alan Baumgardner became public. Prior to that time, none of us who knew their story could talk about it.

Groody's attitude changed considerably. At one time extremely hesitant, he was now eager to explain every detail, no matter how small. Even Baumgardner, who owns and operates two prosperous funeral homes and who certainly doesn't need this kind of publicity, agreed to talk on the record.

I must emphasize again that neither gentleman has charged, or will charge that a body or skull switch took place. But they did see signs that a switch may have been made.

When the vault covering the coffin was unearthed, everything looked normal. But when the workers went to lift up the vault lid, it came off easily. The lid had been sealed with tar in 1963 and the air was supposed to have been pumped out. This nearly complete vacuum was one of the reasons Groody had always been confident that the body would still be in excellent condition. However, the seal had been broken and rather than having to use hammers and chisels (as expected), the lid just slipped off. While not really mysterious, it was unusual.

Inside, the observers noted significant damage to the casket. The top side, just above and behind the head, was broken out. This missing piece was about 18 inches long and 3 to 4 inches wide; it had not fallen inside the coffin or outside—it was gone. Perhaps it had been somehow damaged when the coffin and vault were lowered into the grave and someone kept it as a souvenir.

Through the opening, Groody, Baumgardner and the others could see the skull and upper skeleton of Lee Harvey Oswald. Much of the body had rotted away because the bottom of the vault had cracked, allowing water to seep in. According to several of those present, much of the tension and excitement quickly disappeared, for there had been very real fears that no body was in the grave; indeed, Marina had agreed to the exhumation not because of Eddowes' impostor theory, but because newly declassified documents and some peculiar occurrences in 1964 made her think the grave might be empty.

There had been legitimate concern for security, although there is no known attempt to remove the body (the headstone was stolen in the mid-sixties and recovered in Oklahoma). Early in 1964 several people suggested the body should be moved to a more secure location or cremated. The ideas were considered, briefly, by members of the Warren Commission, but the idea was suddenly dropped (available documents do not indicate why or how deliberations ended).

Early in Spring 1964, Marina was asked to sign a form authorizing installation of a burglar alarm system at the gravesite. Without reading it, she signed the agreement and forgot about it until 1979 when the cremation documents came to her attention. At the exhumation site, no evidence of any alarm system was found, and to this day, she and others wonder what she signed. The paper has never surfaced.

When Oswald's body was brought to Baylor Medical Center for the examination, both undertakers, especially Baumgardner, got a good look at the remains. Groody's only closeup look was when he was brought into the room, at Marina's request, to identify the rings Oswald was buried with. In 1963 Marina had tried to put her wedding ring on Lee's ring finger, but it wouldn't slide past the first joint. She asked Groody for help, but he couldn't do any better. So the ring was slipped onto the little finger of the left hand, and that's where Groody found it in 1981.

He also noted that Oswald's right hand had twisted into a badly deformed position, a fairly normal occurrence when muscles and tendons dry out.

Although Groody was close to the body for only a few seconds, and in the room for less than a minute, he had enough time to notice that the skull was completely intact. After the examination, Groody and Baumgardner returned to the room to place the remains in a body bag and into a new coffin.

Groody stayed at the foot of the corpse and didn't really get to see the skull. But Baumgardner stayed at the head, and he did get a good look. He, too, saw the skull close enough to note that it was completely intact.

Two days later, Groody called Marina to tell her that as far as he and Baumgardner were concerned, everything seemed OK and the questions had been firmly answered. They didn't know of any reason to doubt that the body was that of the real Lee Harvey Oswald.

But a few days later, Groody and Baumgardner were talking together about the exhumation when Alan suddenly recalled the craniotomy. When they received the body from Parkland Hospital after Dr. Earl Rose's autopsy in 1963, they noticed that a cranial had been performed: the top of the skull had been sawed off for removal of the brain. And Groody had prepped the skull for viewing—he was the one who cleaned out the skull, packed it with a little cotton and a lot of sawdust-like material, then put the skullcap back on and pulled the scalp over it. He then sewed up the scalp to hold it together.

No glue, wires or pins had been used. Now, for the first time, Groody and Baumgardner had second thoughts about what they had seen.

They knew that the line of the craniotomy cut should have been very visible to everyone who saw the skull. And they knew that the skullcap should have fallen off in the coffin before anyone touched it. Not only was the skull intact at Baylor, almost all of the scalp had rotted away, leaving no visible mark. Both men were frightened by the implications of what they *didn't* see, and wondered why no one had said anything during the examination.

Next month, in Part 3, the color videotapes of the examination and over 100 "missing" still photographs.

ROLLING STONE, MARCH 3, 1983

DID LEE HARVEY OSWALD DROP ACID?

New evidence suggests he was among soldiers given LSD in a CIA test program

By Martin A. Lee, Robert Ranftel and Jeff Cohen

IT WAS A HOT SUMMER DAY IN NEW Orleans in 1963. A young man walked into the office of Edward Gillin, an assistant district attorney. Gillin offered the visitor a seat, but the young man chose instead to stand across the desk from him. He had a question about a drug—one that Gillin had never heard of before.

This was no ordinary drug, Gillin was told. This drug would affect the social and economic history of the world for the next 200 years. The young man wanted to try the drug, and that was what had brought him to Gillin. He wanted to know if the drug was legal and if he could bring it into the country from somewhere else. It was important, he insisted, speaking for the better part of an hour on the wonders of this new chemical.

Gillin just sat there, somewhat bewildered, trying to assimilate the story. Who was this guy? What was this drug that would transform the world? Any drug that could produce the results this person spoke of, Gillin reasoned, would have to be illegal.

He also concluded that his visitor was probably a bit crazy. Gillin suggested that the young man visit the New Orleans chemist, the police authority on such matters, and strongly urged that he consult his personal physician as well before doing anything further. The visitor left and Gillin never heard from him again.

A few months later—over the weekend of November 22nd, 1963, to be precise—Gillin came to recall that odd encounter. President John F. Kennedy was slain on Friday, a new president was sworn in two hours later, and on Sunday the accused assassin was himself shot down in a Dallas jail. As these incredible events tumbled into one another, Gillin thought of the conversation he had had that summer. As the details and descriptions of the life of the accused assassin became known, Gillin realized that the visitor he had received that afternoon in New Orleans was none other than Lee Harvey Oswald.

IN JULY 1979, THE FINAL REPORT OF THE House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), the first full congressional investigation of the murder of President Kennedy, was published. The committee concluded that Kennedy was probably killed as a result of a conspiracy, although it stopped short of identifying the conspirators who may have been behind Oswald. The HSCA contended that Oswald fired the fatal shots at the president, but that he was accompanied by a second gunman. Thus, Oswald, a loser all his life, was finally relieved of sole blame. It had been a long road for Oswald from infancy to infamy, and now, at last, the government admits he may not have traveled it alone.

Since the assassination, the mind of Lee Harvey Oswald has been open turf for historians, psychologists and conspiracy theorists to muck about in, speculating on every conceivable motive and intrigue that might explain what role he may have played in the death of the president. Described as assassin or patsy, lone nut or conspirator, misguided Marxist or CIA operative, Oswald has never been pegged as a doper.

Gillin called the FBI the day Oswald was killed and told them he believed Oswald had been using unusual drugs, but the FBI seemed uninterested and the drug lead was never pursued.

Had the Warren Commission decided to investigate the psychedelic connection, the logical place to begin would have been to ask, did Oswald turn on, and if so, where did he get his drugs? As it turns out, there is good reason to believe that Oswald was taking psychedelics at a time when the CIA was handing them out. The temptation to connect these two facts demands a look at two relationships: that between the CIA and drugs, and between Oswald and the CIA.

THE CIA FIRST BEGAN EXPERIMENTING with LSD during Project Artichoke, an extensive behavior-control effort launched in 1951. Project Artichoke was aimed primarily at developing unorthodox methods of interrogation – including narco-hypnosis and a combination of various chemicals that, when properly administered, would catapult a person into a semiconscious limbo that the agency called "the Twilight Zone."

After several years, however, the CIA had not yet found a method of interrogation that would guarantee a recalcitrant subject would disclose sensitive information. This prompted the agency to step up its search for a truth drug. It was during this search that CIA scientists first got their hands on LSD. Early reports looked promising. One document indicated that "experimentally, LSD has been used in interrogation and has proved remarkably successful." Another memo stated unequivocally that acid was "better adapted than known drugs to both interrogation of prisoners and use against troops and civilians."

Or so they thought. Later experiments showed that LSD was *not* a reliable speech-inducing agent. Accurate information could not always be obtained from a person who was high on acid, because the drug caused marked anxiety and loss of contact with reality.

But this did not faze the CIA, which was fascinated by LSD. If it did not live up to its potential as a truth drug, Artichoke scientists would simply adapt the interrogation procedure to suit the "far-out" possibilities of this unique chemical. LSD led to totally new methods of interrogation.

Often a subject was given a surreptitious dose of acid, and once the effects took hold, he was told that unless he spilled the beans, he would be kept in a tripped-out state indefinitely. This tactic proved successful; LSD interrogations of enemy spies were in full gear by the mid-1950s and continued through the early 1960s.

Acid proved useful for other CIA purposes as well. In order to discredit socialist or left-leaning politicians in foreign countries, the agency would slip a hit to unwitting targets so they would become incoherent and embarrass themselves at public appearances. (The CIA has denied ever using dirty tricks of this sort in domestic politics.)

The CIA's acid experimentation took on more comprehensive and extravagant dimensions under the supersecret MK ULTRA program. Consisting of 149 different projects, MK ULTRA was one of the most sensitive covert operations ever undertaken by U.S. intelligence. In addition to hallucinogenic drugs, MK ULTRA comprised every conceivable mind-control technique: hypnosis, sensory deprivation, electroshock, ESP, lobotomy, subliminal projection, sleep teaching and thousands of different drugs. The CIA employed hundreds of academics and behavioral experts to help crack the secret code of the human mind in order to control it. A multimillion-dollar effort, this program literally spanned the globe. One location in particular deserves careful observation.

ATSUGI, JAPAN, WAS THE SITE OF THE CIA's headquarters in the Far East, a particularly strategic location in those years that bridged Korea and Vietnam. While the CIA's presence at the Atsugi Naval Air Base has long been known (U-2 spy flights over Russia and China took off from Atsugi), an important facet of its activities has only just recently come to light.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Since the early 1950s, Atsugi served as one of two overseas field stations where the CIA conducted extensive LSD testing. A 1953 memo stated that LSD was being stored at the Manila and Atsugi CIA stations, and that its use in special interrogations in Europe was being considered.

In addition to interrogation sessions, the drug was also employed experimentally on military personnel. These tests continued throughout the Cold War decade and into the early 1960s. One marine-corps veteran who participated in the experiments at Atsugi recounted how two CIA officials gave him a variety of drugs and apparently tried to recruit him for CIA service: "This guy says, 'We just want to see how you'll react. If you're going to be a spy, don't you want to be informed about every mind-altering drug there is?'

"They wanted to find out how well you could stand up under pressure. Like what if the KGB agent drops a tab of acid in your drink? You've got to be ready for it.

"It was pretty weird," the ex-marine explained. "I'm eighteen and chasing all the whores in town, and these CIA guys are buying my drinks and paying for the whores and giving me a whole lot of drinks with lots of weird drugs in them."

One of the drugs was LSD.

"Pretty soon all the shadows are moving around—we're in this bar, see—and Samurais are everywhere, and I started to see skeletons and things. My mind just started boiling over, going about a thousand miles a minute."

In addition to LSD, the Atsugi-based marine was given mescaline, sodium pentothol, downers and speed. "I'm sure there are going to be some little old ladies who're gonna be surprised that illegal drugs like heroin and LSD were freely used by government agents," he continued. "But that's the way it was."

If that's the way it was, it's important to mention that Atsugi was the home, during those years, of another young marine—Lee Harvey Oswald. In fact, Oswald served in the same marine unit as the source.

PRIVATE LEE HARVEY OSWALD ARRIVED IN Atsugi in September 1957. He was seventeen years old and had spent his childhood bouncing between foster homes and the company of his widowed mother in New York, Louisiana and Texas. A voracious reader who scored above average on aptitude tests, he had nonetheless been habitually truant and dropped out of high school. This led him into the marines and to Japan, ostensibly as a radar operator. According to one CIA official, however, Oswald attracted the attention of the Tokyo CIA station and was recruited for its "special operations."

According to James Wilcott, a CIA finance officer in Japan at the time of the Kennedy assassination, news of the events in Dallas came as no great shock to agency personnel. First, they had expected *someone* to do something about Kennedy and his "anti-CIA policies." And second, the man who appeared to have taken the task upon himself, Lee Harvey Oswald, was no stranger to the CIA.

The story that circulated among CIA personnel stationed in Tokyo, Wilcott maintains, was that Oswald had been recruited from the marines for a deep-cover operation into the U.S.S.R. With no friends in the marines, fleeting contact with his family and a history of moving about, he would easily have been able to embark upon a secret project without attracting much attention.

MARTIN A. LEE *is completing a book, 'The CIA and the Acid Generation: the Secret History of LSD.'* ROBERT RANFTEL *is an investigator and storyteller in Berkeley, California.* JEFF COHEN *is a lawyer and writer in Los Angeles. All three authors were associated with the Assassination Information Bureau.*

The most striking aspect of Wilcott's statement was that he'd heard speculation that the CIA's recruitment of Oswald at Atsugi was facilitated by a special "handle" the agency had on Oswald, after discovering "during a routine lie-detector test that he'd murdered someone or committed some other serious crime." A routine test? Or one assisted by modern chemistry?

The HSCA rejected Wilcott's story of Oswald's CIA recruitment for lack of corroboration from other Tokyo-based agents. Investigating covert matters twenty years after the fact is not easy, due, in part, to faulty memories — some intentionally faulty. As former CIA director Richard Helms stated when asked to explain gaps in his testimony on the JFK assassination, "My memory has been contaminated." Thus, any direct trail from the CIA to Oswald remains, as one might expect, clouded.

Oswald's career as a marine was, in a word, weird. At one point, he shot himself, wounding his arm in what appeared to be a feeble suicide attempt rather than the accident he claimed it was. His fellow marines saw it as a ploy to enable him to remain in Japan when his unit was to be transferred. The official record says that he was shot with his .45-caliber service revolver, but it was later ruled that he'd been shot with a .22.

On another occasion, while Oswald was on guard duty, gunfire was heard. He was found sitting on the ground, more than a little dazed, babbling about seeing things in the bushes. His colleagues, unfamiliar with what in the Sixties would become known as a bad trip, walked him back to his barracks and put him to bed.

Somehow, between shooting himself and shooting randomly into the bushes, Oswald learned to speak Russian. Wilcott and others contend that these language lessons were courtesy of the CIA. (Private Oswald possessed a high-security clearance.) No one has suggested any other way he could have achieved the proficiency he did, but "Oswaldkovich," as he was dubbed by his befuddled barracks mates, was then prepared for the next step on what turned out to be a rather strange trip.

In September 1959, he requested and received an early discharge from the marines and then traveled (with unexplained money and by unknown means) to the Soviet Union. There, he swiftly appeared at the U.S. embassy to announce he was defecting and giving military secrets to the Russians. The change from marine to Muscovite was sudden and dramatic, leaving almost everyone puzzled. One exception was Oswald's mother, Marguerite, who showed herself to be a woman ahead of the times by contending in 1960 that her son was a spy for the U.S. government. Her argument was so compelling that J. Edgar Hoover sent out a memo two and a half years before the assassination suggesting there was more to Oswald than met the eye.

If Oswald was sent to Russia as a pseudo-defector, performing some covert task for the U.S. (exactly what the Russians suspected from the beginning), then it's quite possible he was given LSD as part of his training. A lengthy CIA memo entitled "Truth Drugs in Interrogation" reveals the agency's predilection for administering LSD to agents who were destined for dangerous overseas missions. The CIA feared that the Russians might use LSD in interrogations or as a brainwashing device.

An adversary intelligence service, in the words of the report, could employ LSD "to produce anxiety or terror in medically unsophisticated subjects unable to distinguish drug-induced psychosis from actual insanity." But as the report states, "an enlightened operative" (that is, someone who had tripped before and was therefore familiar with LSD's effects) would not freak out, "knowing that the effects of these hallucinogenic agents is transient in normal individuals." The question is, was Oswald "enlightened"?

LIFE FOR OSWALD IN RUSSIA WAS ALMOST AS strange as life in the marines. He traveled to obscure places doing mundane tasks; biographers still wonder what he was really up to. When the Russians told Oswald they were returning him to the U.S., he tried to slit his wrists — another unsuccessful suicide. As in the marines, he was allowed to stay.

In Minsk, where he was given work in a radio factory, he met and fell in love with an attractive nineteen-year-old who, ironically, was a druggist. Her name was Marina Prusakova, and she lived with her uncle, a Soviet intelligence officer. Their courtship lasted but a month, most of it while Oswald was in a hospital and under medication, allegedly recovering from an adenoid operation. They were married, and Oswald inexplicably soon began making arrangements to return with his bride to America.

The Warren Commission briefly considered the possibility that Oswald had been brainwashed by Soviet secret police prior to his return to the U.S. The commission was suspicious about the "suicide" attempt, and hypothesized that Oswald might have been tampered with while hospitalized in Moscow. At one point, the commission asked the CIA for a briefing on the latest developments in mind control. Richard Helms, then head of CIA covert operations, concluded that while the Soviets were studying drugs like LSD for possible clandestine use, there was no evidence Oswald had been brainwashed.

Helms wrote in a June 1964 memo, "Soviet research in pharmacological agents producing behavioral effects has consistently lagged five years behind Western research. . . . There is no present evidence that the Soviets have any singular new potent drugs, or that they are particularly expert in the use of such drugs to force a course of action on an individual." (Later that same year, Helms privately urged that the CIA continue to test LSD and related chemicals on unwitting American citizens in order to keep up "with Soviet advances in this field.")

WHILE OSWALD WAS IN RUSSIA FALLING IN love with a pharmacist, the CIA was bedding down with mobsters in an effort to bump off Fidel Castro. Both longed for a return to the Cuba that had existed before Fidel, a right-wing haven for gamblers, drug runners and the United Fruit Company. The CIA's anti-Cuban alliance with the Mafia was originally supervised by then-CIA director Allen Dulles, who later sat on the Warren Commission but failed to inform the other commissioners of the CIA's assassination plots. Thus, the commission never considered the implications of what Lyndon Johnson called the CIA's "Murder, Inc." in the Caribbean.

The CIA's anti-Castro operations began before Kennedy took office with a series of foiled attempts to undermine Fidel's charismatic appeal. One plan was to spray Castro's broadcasting studio with a powerful hallucinogen similar to LSD, creating an embarrassing scene as the premier babbled in a drug-induced stupor. This plan was scrapped because the drug proved too unpredictable.

Yet another plot involved dusting Castro's shoes with thallium salts, which would cause his beard to fall out. Apparently hatched at the CIA's Bible Desk, "Operation Samson" postulated that Castro would lose his charisma once defrocked of hair.

After a few months of pursuing such dubious schemes, the CIA shifted its focus from bad trips and beard trims to eliminating Castro altogether. In August 1960, Colonel Sheffield Edwards, who had originally coordinated Project Artichoke for the CIA, was asked to organize an assassination squad to snuff out Castro. Edwards turned to the CIA's Las Vegas contacts, eventually hiring mobsters Johnny Roselli, Sam Giancana and Santos Trafficante for the task.

Colonel Edwards' successor in charge of the Castro project, William Harvey, was another CIA spook who graduated from mind control to murder conspiracies. Harvey was one of a handful of CIA officers kept abreast of behavior-control projects from the beginning, and as CIA chief in West Germany in the 1950s, he employed LSD in special interrogations. He was then promoted to head Operation ZR-Rifle, which developed the CIA's "executive action capability" — a euphemism for the agency's capability to assassinate foreign leaders.

Harvey, along with MK ULTRA's head sorcerer-scientist, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, studied the feasibility of applying a bizarre array of gadgets and biochemical poisons to "executive actions." This program banded together the most right-wing elements of the CIA with their natural allies: anti-Castro mercenaries and the Mob.

Such an unholy alliance was not officially acknowledged until the 1975 Senate investigation headed by Senator Frank Church, which established that there had been eight attempts on Castro's life. (Castro, in a better position to count, numbered them at closer to eighty.) Senator Church reported that the plots utilized deadly bacterial powders, cigars dipped in lethal poison, exploding seashells, a poison fountain pen rigged with a hypodermic syringe and other devices that strain the imagination. The CIA even considered the possibility of using a hypnotized "Manchurian Candidate" to kill Castro.

In attempting to unravel these murder schemes, Church's Senate Select Committee on Intelligence found itself over a barrel when Johnny Roselli's body turned up inside one, floating in the ocean. He was one of several participants in the CIA-Mafia plots who met an untimely death. Before he was murdered in 1976, Roselli claimed that Oswald had been a mere patsy, and that the real presidential assassins had been a Mafia hit squad originally trained to kill Castro.

And what was the motive? CIA rightists were apparently incensed by JFK, who in his last year had obstructed anti-Castro paramilitary operations while making moves toward détente with Cuba. The House Assassinations Committee also suggested that the JFK conspirators were organized-crime figures, presumably Trafficante and others involved with CIA attempts on Castro.

IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKDROP OF secret plots and CIA-Mafia connivance that Oswald returned to America in June 1962. During his years abroad, the drug expertise and enthusiasm of the CIA had advanced to the point where various chemicals, including LSD, were routinely used in questioning defectors, suspected double agents and the like. The returning Oswald seemed a prime candidate for special interrogation, given the circumstances of his defection and the suddenness of his return. Yet there is no evidence that the CIA or any other agency met with Oswald upon his arrival. (The State Department even loaned him $435 for his return to the U.S.)

Oswald's life in America was no less peculiar than it had been in Atsugi or in Minsk. Lee and Marina settled in Texas and soon took up with an odd assortment of friends, none more unusual than George De Mohrenschildt. Born a Russian count before the revolution, De Mohrenschildt thrived in a world of political shadows, appearing at various times to be working for Polish intelligence, the Nazis, the French Resistance, the British, the Americans, the Rockefellers — a man of many masks. By 1962, he was calling himself a geologist and a friend to the Oswalds.

In April 1963, Oswald moved to New Orleans, where his social circle — in view of his alleged Marxist sympathies — was even stranger than in Dallas. There he met Carlos Bringuier, an anti-Castro Cuban exile with CIA connections. Oswald first sought to work for Bringuier, then appeared to be working against him. Eventually, the two engaged in a well-publicized street brawl and then a debate about Cuba on New Orleans radio. Joining Oswald and Bringuier in the debate was Ed Butler, a right-wing propagandist for the Information Council of the Americas (INCA), a group that later sold LPs of the debate as part of its anticommunist crusade. The president of INCA was Dr. Alton Ochsner, described as a consultant to the air force on "the medical side of subversive matters." The directorships of Bringuier's anti-Castro group and Ochsner's INCA included the owners of the Reily Coffee Company, where Oswald, the man being denounced by both organizations as a communist, had recently been on the payroll.

By far the strangest bird to intersect Oswald's orbit was David Ferrie. Eccentric in behavior, belief and appearance, Ferrie had been an Eastern Airlines pilot until he was arrested for a "crime against nature" with a sixteen-year-old boy. He was a priest in the Orthodox Old Catholic Church, a bizarre sect engaging in animal sacrifice and occult rituals. Ferrie had no hair on his body (perhaps someone had poisoned his shoes) and wore ill-fitting wigs and fake eyebrows that fooled no one and made a striking, if not shocking, impression on all who saw him.

Although the Oswald-Ferrie relationship is well-proved, it is unclear when it began. The House Assassinations Committee suggested that the two men may have met as early as 1956 in New Orleans, when young Lee was a cadet in a Civil Air Patrol squadron headed by Ferrie. By the time of the 1963 radio debate, Oswald and Ferrie were well acquainted. A right-winger who hated Kennedy, Ferrie was active in paramilitary operations against Castro and claimed to have flown in the CIA-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Ferrie was also a hypnotist and fancied himself a biochemist. He claimed to have created drugs that caused cancer (something the CIA was also secretly developing) or caused heart attacks indistinguishable from natural death (another CIA endeavor), as well as aphrodisiacs and amnesia-inducing drugs. At times, his apartment was overrun by laboratory mice. Many attributed his hairless condition to a chemistry experiment gone awry.

On top of all his strange hobbies, Ferrie worked as a pilot and private investigator for Carlos Marcello, the Mafia boss of New Orleans and Dallas, a sworn enemy of the Kennedys, a cohort of the CIA-Mafia conspirators and, according to his tax returns, one heck of a tomato salesman. Marcello claimed a $1600 per month income from tomato sales, but somehow had accumulated a net worth of $40 million (government investigators contend through drugs and racketeering).

Thus David Ferrie represents a nexus in the JFK murder mystery between the Mafia and the CIA, drugs and assassination. In 1967, his ranking as premier oddball in the case was assured when he died of an apparent suicide, soon after having become a key suspect in the assassination probe led by New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison.

Into this bed of strange fellows crawled Lee Harvey Oswald in the summer of 1963. What kept him going through those days is not exactly clear: his jobs were meager and his political efforts halfhearted. The best explanation for his political schizophrenia is that Oswald was some type of informant posing as a pro-Castroite. His marriage was less than ideal, and Marina was beginning to see him as a bit of a space cadet. "Lee no like Russia," she once said. "Lee no like America. Lee like moon."

WHICH BRINGS US FULL CIRCLE TO WHAT began as a typical day for New Orleans assistant DA Edward Gillin but ended somewhere in the Twilight Zone with a strange visit from a young man preaching the virtues of psychedelic drugs. Gillin's assurance that Oswald had been his visitor was rejected by the FBI on the grounds that Gillin was extremely nearsighted and therefore incapable of eyewitness identification. But due to his poor vision, he had come more and more to rely on voice as a means of identification, and when Oswald's voice was played on the radio (the INCA recording previously mentioned), Gillin recognized it as that of his visitor.

He claimed that his visitor repeatedly referred to an author whose books on drugs described the new world that the visitor, too, had foreseen. The FBI, in a case of literary myopia, recorded the author's name as "Hucksley." "Hucksley" can, of course, be none other than Aldous Huxley, author of *The Doors of Perception*, the manifesto of psychedelic consciousness. Apparently, he was unknown to the FBI, which is not too surprising. (When informed in 1964 that Jean-Paul Sartre had called for a new investigation of the Kennedy assassination, J. Edgar Hoover promptly scribbled on a memo, "Find out who Sartre is.") In a slip almost too Freudian to be believed, the FBI's memos refer to *Brave New World*, Huxley's pessimistic novel of a drug-induced totalitarian society, as *This Great World*.

Given Gillin's inability to eyeball Oswald and the FBI's blindness as to who "Hucksley" was, it is not surprising that the bureau's probe was inconclusive. However, had the FBI taken the trouble to review its own records, it would have found that during the summer of 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald checked out several books by Aldous Huxley from the New Orleans Public Library.

Edward Gillin, who is now a juvenile-court judge in New Orleans, remembers the conversation as if it had occurred last month. "He was looking for a drug that would open his vision, you know, mind expansion," recalls Gillin. "I was very curious about any guy who would come into the DA's office asking if a drug is legal and giving me a long spiel about a book by Aldous Huxley."

In September 1963, Oswald applied for a visa to go to Mexico. Like an old familiar ghost, the CIA cast another shadow across his path. The visa immediately preceding Oswald's was issued to a William Gaudet, an admitted CIA contact. (At this time, Gaudet was employed by Dr. Alton Ochsner, the aforementioned INCA president.) When the Mexican government submitted the names of visa holders preceding and following Oswald's to the Warren Commission, only one name — Gaudet's — was omitted. No explanation for the omission has ever been offered.

Why did Oswald want to go to Mexico? Having received no help from the New Orleans DA's office, perhaps he was heading south of the border in his quest for drugs. George De Mohrenschildt had traveled frequently to Mexico, and his stories may have figured into Oswald's plans. (De Mohrenschildt committed suicide in 1977, shortly before he was to testify before the House Assassinations Committee.) Visa in hand, Oswald went to the library to pick up more books by Huxley and a few by Ian Fleming, and soon he was on the long bus ride to Mexico City.

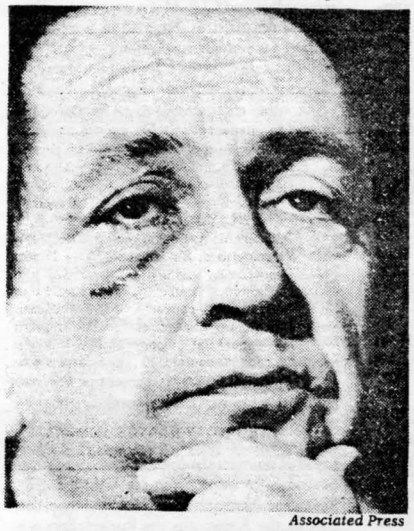
What Oswald did there the last week in September has never been totally clear. It's alleged he contacted the Soviet or Cuban embassies. It's reported he hung out on college campuses and attended a party with people connected to early LSD experiments. But Oswald's trail is far too cold to determine just what he was thinking. Perhaps the books he was reading are the best clues to what his trip was about: espionage and mind expansion. In any event, he soon returned to the U.S., to Dallas and to his place in history.

On November 22nd, 1963, the Kennedy administration came to an abrupt end. On that very day, a cancer stricken Aldous Huxley lay on his deathbed, took a sizable dose of LSD and passed on...tripping.

STILL, THE QUESTION REMAINS: did Lee Harvey Oswald drop acid? The assistant DA of New Orleans suggests yes. The FBI says no. By 1963, Oswald had had several opportunities to acquaint himself with psychedelics: through the CIA at Atsugi or through his contacts with intelligence and underworld types.

Indeed, one could argue that Oswald's life had been a psychedelic mine field, almost impossible to pass through without tripping. His alleged murder of the president, on the other hand, was a shot through the trees at a moving target—a feat that has never been duplicated. Had Oswald lived to tell his story, we could have learned if he had really done either. But such was not his fate, as a stunned TV audience witnessed Oswald's execution at the hands of a gangster.

Years later, when an entire generation of young people seemed to be turning on, George De Mohrenschildt eulogized his friend: "No matter what they say, Lee Harvey Oswald was a delightful guy. They make him out to be a moron, but he was smart as hell. Ahead of his time, really. A kind of hippie of those days.... And I will tell you this—I am *sure* he did not shoot the president." ○ DMN 3-12-83

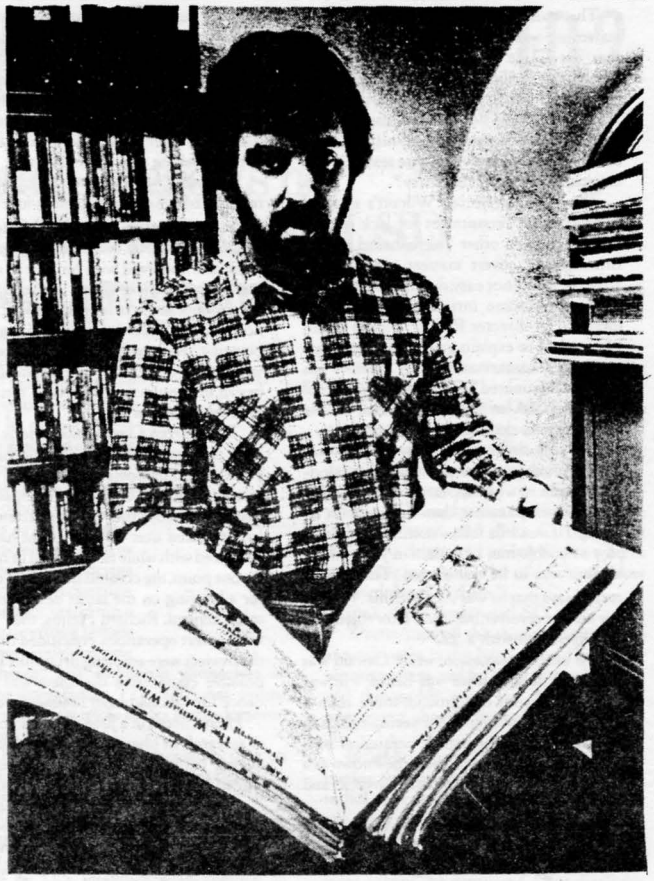


Associated Press

Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania sports six stitches on a cut below his right eye Friday during a Senate Energy Committee hearing. Specter was injured with a squash racket wielded by fellow Republican Sen. Robert Packwood of Oregon.

(Perhaps Packwood is secretly a Warren Commission critic)

Lawrence, KS Journal-World 2-3-83



(Staff photo by Julian Gonzalez)

The 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy has become a minor obsession for Baker University speech professor Larry Haapanen, who has taught a class on the subject.

Baker students shadow Kennedy assassination

BY DON WININGHAM
J-W Staff Writer

Most crimes that happened 20 years ago have faded into the history books — perhaps interesting to a student of the nefarious, but forgotten bits of ugliness to the common man.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy is an exception, staying fresh in the imagination — especially among people old enough to remember that afternoon in Dallas..

It's that way at Baker University here, even among students who hadn't even been born when Kennedy rode through the streets of Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

A class on the Kennedy assassination was perhaps the hottest subject of the school's inter-term session — it attracted almost 50 students.

And that doesn't surprise Larry Haapanen, speech professor, Kennedy buff and inter-term teacher.

"THE ASSASSINATION was one of those rare events that had a great emotional impact on the entire public," Haapanen said. "It was just like the Pearl Harbor, or the death of President Franklin Roosevelt. It shocked and captured the attention of everyone."

And the controversy over what really happened keeps the crime alive. Theories about the assassination range from speculation that it was the solo act of Lee Harvey Oswald to talk of an international conspiracy.

Three high-level investigations, more than 140 books and countless articles have attempted — without success — to give the final explanation.

"It's more than just the 'crime of the century,'" Haapanen said, "It is a historical puzzle. My students were fascinated. Most of then knew a little about the assassination, but they didn't know about the questions, the controversy. All that was a revelation."

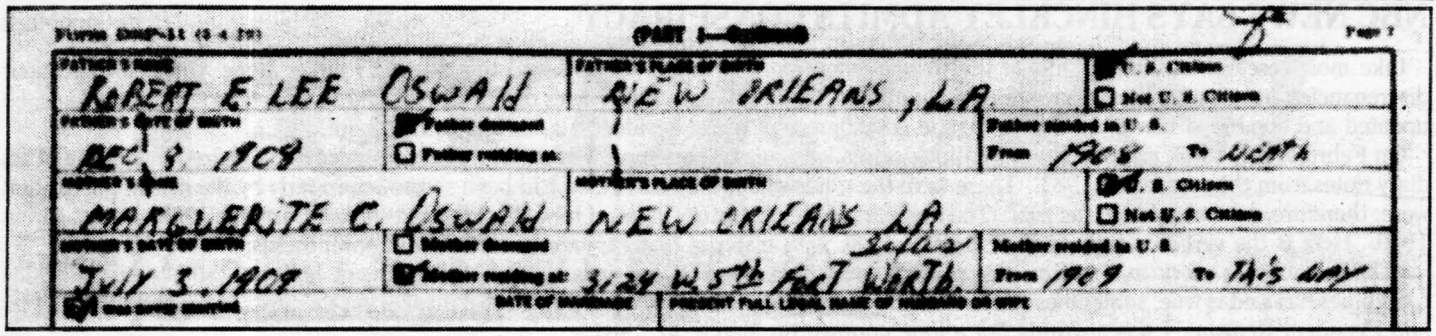
AND THAT revelation may have added to the legion of assassination buffs who continue to seek a final answer.

"I didn't really tally the opinions . . . but most of the class felt there was a conspiracy of some sort . . . A lot of them said they wanted to pursue it farther," Haapanen said.

But answers to questions that have remained buried for 20 years is going to be tough to ever unearth, according to the professor. There is unlimited controversy over the known facts, and much information remains buried in official secrecy.

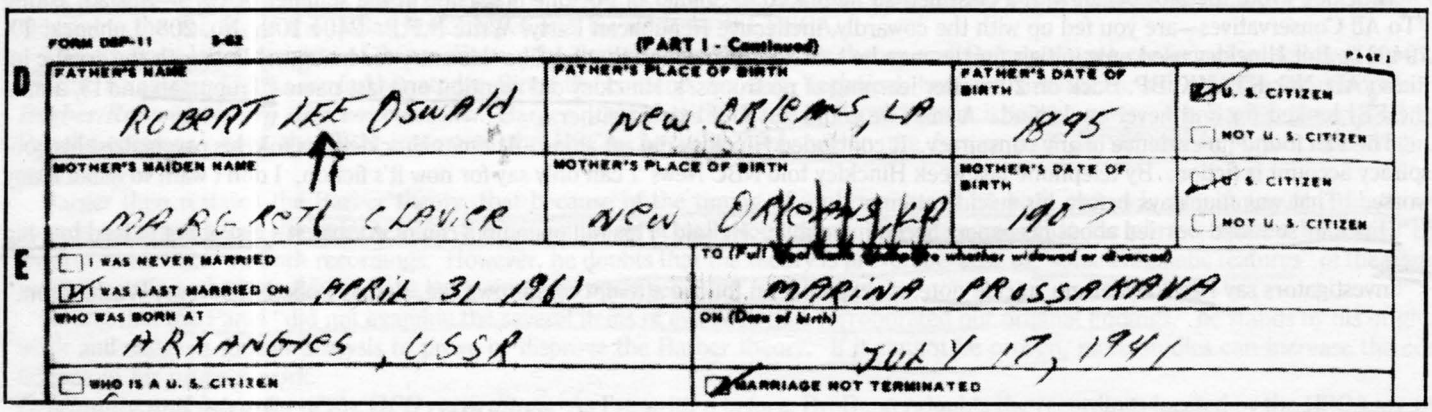
"I don't think they'll ever be an answer, at least not in any simple way," Haapanen said. "I don't think the answer is buried in any official file. But perhaps if you could take all the information for all sources and put it together a piece at a time the answer might come that way.

"Probably if you and I had the time and the access, we could eventually figure it out."



PART I—Continued

FATHER'S NAME: ROBERT E LEE OSWALD
FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: NEW ORLEANS, LA
FATHER'S DATE OF BIRTH: DEC 8 1908
Father deceased
Father residing at:
Father resided in U. S. From 1908 To 1959
MOTHER'S NAME: MARGUERITE C. OSWALD
MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: NEW ORLEANS LA.
MOTHER'S DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 3. 1907
Mother deceased
Mother residing at: 3124 W 5th FORT WORTH.
Mother resided in U. S. From 1909 To 1959
DATE OF MARRIAGE
PRESENT FULL LEGAL NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE



FORM DSP-11 5-62
(PART I - Continued)
PAGE 1

D
FATHER'S NAME: ROBERT LEE Oswald
FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: NEW ORLEANS, LA
FATHER'S DATE OF BIRTH: 1895
U. S. CITIZEN
NOT U. S. CITIZEN
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: MARGARET CLAVIER
MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH: NEW ORLEANS LA
MOTHER'S DATE OF BIRTH: 1907
U. S. CITIZEN
NOT U. S. CITIZEN

E
I WAS NEVER MARRIED
I WAS LAST MARRIED ON APRIL 31 1961
TO (Full name of wife, whether widowed or divorced): MARINA PROSSAKAVA
WHO WAS BORN AT: ARKANGHES, USSR
ON (Date of birth): JULY 17, 1941
WHO IS A U. S. CITIZEN
MARRIAGE NOT TERMINATED

CAN YOU FORGET HOW TO SPELL YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?

by Jack White

You probably know your mother's name as well as your own. You probably learned to spell it at a very early age. It was easy if her name was Mary or Ann or Jane. But even if it was a difficult name like Stephanie or Marguerite, you probably mastered it easily...and never forgot it.

Suppose it was Stephanie, and you always spelled it correctly. But then, at age 17 you joined the armed forces for a couple of years and later went to a foreign country; then suppose at age 23, after returning to this country, you spelled your mother's name *phonetically*...Stefanny! Does that seem unlikely to you?

Well, consider the case of Lee Harvey Oswald and his two passport applications (WC Cadigan Exhibits No. 3 & 10, reproduced above). On September 4, 1959, on the reverse side of his passport application form, 19-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald correctly listed his mother's name as ***Marguerite*** C. Oswald (XIX, 269).

On June 24, 1963, a second Oswald passport application was filled in by a 23-year-old man in New Orleans, and in the space for "mother's maiden name" he wrote ***Margrete*** Clavier! (XIX, 284).

This perfect *phonetic* spelling of a difficult name might be expected of a foreigner...but a son would *never* spell his mother's name phonetically! Of almost equal significance is the spelling of her maiden name, ***"Clavier"***, since Lillian Murret, Marguerite's sister, spelled it ***C-L-A-V-E-R-I-E*** in her testimony (VIII, 92). Perhaps there is an excuse for misspelling this unusual family name, but never the mother's given name! Spelling of "Margrete" instead of "Marguerite" is just one of the many reasons why I believe the young man in New Orleans and Dallas who came from Russia with a Russian wife was not the same person who knew how to spell his mother's name in 1959 before going to Russia!

Further study of these two exhibits shows several other interesting anomalies:

1959...Father's name...Robert E. Lee Oswald
1963...Father's name...Robert Lee Oswald

1959...Father's birthdate...Dec. 8, 1908
1963...Father's birthdate...1895!!!!

1959...Mother's birthdate...July 3, 1909
1963...Mother's birthdate...1907!!!!

Additional interesting anomalies: the misspelling of Marina Oswald's maiden name as "Prossakava" instead of Prusakova and the impossible wedding date of "April 31 1961" on the 1963 application.

A foreigner might not appreciate the "southern" significance of the name "Robert E. Lee" but the young marine Oswald was proud enough of it to put it on the 1959 application. And would a true son move his father's birthdate back 13 years and his mother's back 2 years? To believe that (and that a son can't spell his own mother's name) is to believe the Warren Report and other fairy tales.

It's time to end the government coverup of the identities of Lee Harvey Oswald, "Lee Harvey Oswald" and Alek J. Hidell. Twenty years have passed, and what difference can it make now to "national security"?

NBC NEWS SAYS HINCKLEY ADMITS CONSPIRACY

by Gary Mack

Like most researchers who've studied the Reagan shooting, I'm far from convinced that Hinckley did it alone. Most of the major discrepancies and contradictions have been recounted in 1981 and early 1982 issues of *The Continuing Inquiry* (and should, perhaps, be updated and combined here). Now some of the government's "secret" evidence is starting to come out.

On February 14, 1983, just one day after Hinckley's failed "suicide" attempt, NBC Nightly News revealed, for the first time, some of his diary notes from the summer of 1981. These were the notes which the court ruled had been seized improperly by the prison guards and were, therefore, inadmissable in the trial. The first part of the NBC story detailed how Hinckley had stalked Carter in 1979 and Reagan in 1980. Here is the verbatim transcript of the broadcast, with material that appeared on camera in parentheses:

"There's another story in the Hinckley papers, something the FBI has investigated and does not believe. Something Hinckley sometimes has said is true, sometimes said is not. Hinckley wrote 'There were 8 other people involved in the plots to kill President Carter and President Reagan. I was anything but a lone gunman on March 30, 1981.'

"Hinckley wrote the plot began with a classified ad he placed in Soldier of Fortune magazine in the summer of 1979—this ad, asking ('To All Conservatives—are you fed up with the cowardly, ineffective Republican Party? Write N.F.P. 2404 10th No. 208 Lubbock, TX 79401.') But Hinckley used only initials for the men he said he met through that ad, like this entry for Inaugural Day, with the cryptic initials ('AD, NG, RT, MK, BP. Back on 20th after learning of no troops.') Hinckley did mention one last name ('Troppman and I'), a man the FBI looked for and never could find. A man we could not find existed either.

"The FBI found no evidence of any conspiracy. It concluded Hinckley did act alone. At times Hinckley has told his psychiatrist his conspiracy account is fiction. By telephone last week Hinckley told NBC News 'I can only say for now it's fiction. I don't want to make it any worse.' That was four days before his suicide attempt.

"Hinckley sounded worried about his papers becoming public. He said 'This will open up a can of worms. It's just going to lead to a big mess.'

"Investigators say Hinckley left no suicide note, no explanation for the attempt on his own life. James Polk, NBC News, Washington."

BRIEFS....Researcher Gary Shaw, working with attorney Bud Fensterwald, lost his FOIA suit seeking hundreds of pages on French intelligence agent Jean Souetre, who was flown out of Dallas by Uncle Sam less than a day after JFK died; Gary has worked on Souetre for some five years, filed suit nearly three years ago, and has turned up numerous, disturbing connections between this known assassin and principals who may have been involved in JFK's execution....If you've been thinking of buying a video recorder (they're now under $400), now's the time to do it: numerous JFK documentaries are in the works for Fall TV, including Australian public television....If the tv show Lie Detector is seen in your area, call the station and ask when shows 41 and 47 will run: Frank Sturgis answers questions about Watergate and the JFK assassination - here's a hint (as if you couldn't guess), the polygraph showed Mr. Fiorini was truthful; the JFK transcript will be in the next Coverups....Which brings up a point about the contents of this newsletter - I try to use the most timely clippings and articles first - that's why several submitted manuscripts have not yet appeared; a few minor articles have been printed, but they're used to fill up small spaces....Jan Mierzejewski is wondering about a Jack Ruby story - it seems he kept a diary of the weekend events at 15 minute intervals; anyone know more?....And Bob Benn recommends asking your local bookstore to do a search if you're looking for the WC volumes - they have access to at least one national source and it found two sets for less than $300 each....What an unusual month March has been: Castro still claims the CIA is trying to kill him and President Raygun shows classified spy photos showing missile bases in Cuba; is this 1962 or 1983? And next year, the President is coming to Dallas.

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